

Application Serial No.: 09/864,044
Amendment and Response to March 4, 2004 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Upon entry of the this amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9-12, 23, 26, 29, and 33-34 will be amended, claims 2, 13-21, and 31 will be canceled, and claims 35-43 will be added. Thus, claims 1, 3-12, 22-30, and 32-43 will be pending in the application. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statements that (i) claims 30 and 32 are allowed and (ii) claims 2-21 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of these statements, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2. As a result, Applicant respectfully suggests that claim 1 should now be allowable.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 3-12 ultimately depend from claim 1 and should therefore be allowable.

Claims 13-21 have been re-written as claims 35-43, discussed below.

Claims 22-25 depend from claim 1 and should therefore be allowable.

The independent claims in claims 26-29 have been amended to include limitations similar to those that have been added to claim 1 (*i.e.*, limitations that were present in claim 2 as originally filed) - or depend from such a claim - and should therefore be allowable.

Claim 30 stands allowed.

Claim 31 has been canceled.

Claim 32 stands allowed.

Claims 33-34 have been amended to include limitations similar to those that have been added to claim 1 (*i.e.*, limitations that were present in claim 2 as originally filed) and should therefore be allowable.

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For claim numbering reasons, Claims 35-43 represent original claims 13-21 re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as follows:

- claim 35: original claim 13,
- claim 38: original claim 16,
- claim 40: original claim 18, and
- claim 42: original claim 20.

As a result, Applicant respectfully suggests that the newly presented claims 35-43 are allowable.

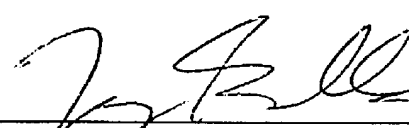
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (650) 694-5810.

Respectfully submitted,

5/ 4/04

Date



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